

1 March 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act (LGOIMA) request regarding any positive tests for faecal matter in any Taieri bores

I am writing in response to your request for information received 9 February 2018 regarding any positive tests for faecal matter in any Taieri bores.

Set out below is a table of E.coli transgressions which were recorded from 2011 to date at the Mosgiel Bores. These are not the Taieri bores as you originally requested, as they are a separate bore field in Outram Glen which supplies both the Outram and Southern Water Treatment Plants with raw water for treatment. This water is not supplied to Mosgiel. We advise that we do not do testing at Outram for E.coli, but note that it is UV treated and chlorinated (as per NZ Drinking Standards).

A transgression is where E.coli has come back positive in a sample (equal to or greater than 1 coliform forming unit), which is the best indicator of possible faecal contamination. E.coli used as an indicator is pretty reliable, with quick result (18hrs after sampling). However, as results are obtained so late after sampling, it would be highly likely that contaminated water would already be well distributed within the network – this is why sampling is not a barrier to contamination. When we get a positive result, the bore is turned off and cleaned. Then three daily samples have to come back clear of E.coli before the bore is turned back on to supply the network.

Mosgiel transgressions

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Severn St bore	3	1	0	0	0	0
Old Borough Yard bore	0	1	1	4	1	0
Eden St bore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watt St bore	0	4	1	1	0	1
Reid Ave bore	0	0	0	0	0	0

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Murray
Governance Support Officer